

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3569

INFO CJCS

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 11737

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI CB

SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

REF: PHNOM PENH 11536

1. SUMMARY. THE DAILY NUMBER OF RECRUITS REPORTED BY KHANDS SLIPPED BELOW 200 THE PAST FOUR DAYS AS SOME SUBDISTRICTS NEARED THE END OF THEIR REGISTRATION LISTS AND AS THE NUMBER OF DEFERMENTS INCREASED. MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO REVERSE THE TREND INCLUDE SIMPLIFICATION AND BETTER SUPERVISION OF THE DEFERMENT SYSTEM AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE BASE TO INCLUDE THE PHNOM PENH SATELLITE CITY OF TAKHMAU AND LATER OTHER PROVINCIAL CENTERS. LITTLE HAS YET BEEN DONE TO BRING IN THOSE WHO HAVE NOT REGISTERED OR WHO HAVE NOT APPEARED WHEN SUMMONED TO THE EXAMINING BOARDS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON OCTOBER 26 THE FANK RECEPTION CENTER REPORTED A TOTAL OF 3,657 RECRUITS, BROKEN DOWN AS 551 CONSCRIPTS AND 3106 VOLUNTEERS. (MANY RECRUITS HAVE
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BEEN CHANGING THEIR STATUS FROM CONSCRIPT TO VOLUNTEER

AFTER ARRIVAL AT THE RECEPTION CENTER THUS ACCOUNTING FOR THE APPARENT LOW NUMBER OF CONSCRIPTS AND CREATING A CONFLICT WITH PHNOM PENH CITY OFFICIALS' STATISTICS WHICH SHOW 2005 CONSCRIPTS.) RESULTS FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS AS REPORTED BY CITY OFFICIALS ARE AS FOLLOWS: OCTOBER 25, 120; OCTOBER 26, 128; AND OCTOBER 27, 146 (PROVISIONAL).

3. A SURVEY OF SECOND-LEVEL SUBDIVISIONS (SANGKATS) THIS MORNING BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER REVEALED THAT SOME ARE NEARING THE END OF THEIR REGISTRATION LISTS. ONE SANGKAT WAS MAKING NEW EFFORTS TO BRING ITS LIST UP TO DATE (VIRTUALLY ALL ARE WORKING FROM INCOMPLETE LISTS) AND ANOTHER PLANNED TO START CALLING UP AUTO-DEFENSE PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE THUS FAR BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE DRAFT IN SEVERAL SUBDIVISIONS. MOST OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL OFFICIALS WE HAVE QUERIED REMAIN HIGHLY RELUCTANT TO RESORT TO FORCE TO BRING IN EVADERS (WHO UNDOUBTEDLY EXCEED IN NUMBER THOSE ALREADY DRAFTED), ALTHOUGH WE NOTED POLICE OFFICERS WERE MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN THE SANGKATS.

4. WHILE CROWDS AT THE EXAMINING BOARDS SEEM TO HAVE SLACKENED OFF SOMEWHAT TODAY, THE PROBLEM DURING THE PREVIOUS THREE DAYS WAS NOT THE NUMBER OF YOUTH REPORTING, WHICH WAS QUITE LARGE, BUT THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AND CIVIL SERVANTS AMONG THEM SEEKING DEFERMENTS. TO REDUCE THIS WORK-LOAD AND LESSEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FRAUD, CONSCRIPTION CHIEF OF STAFF MG THAPPANA NGINN IS ASKING SCHOOLS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO FURNISH EACH KHAND LISTS OF THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR DEFERMENTS. HE IS ALSO ORDERING THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT TO CEASE HIRING 18-25 YEAR OLDS WHO CANNOT PRODUCE PROOF OF MILITARY SERVICE. AT MARSHAL LON NOL'S ORDER, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CITY AND FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ITSELF WERE BUSY THIS MORNING EXAMINING THE DEFERMENT PROCESS IN DECHO SUBDIVISION FOR FLAWS AND DISCUSSING MEANS OF INCREASING THE FLOW OF CONSCRIPTS.

5. BEGINNING TOMORROW (OCTOBER 28), CONSCRIPTION WILL BE EXTENDED TO PHNOM PENH'S INDUSTRIAL SUBURB OF TAKHMAU AND TO THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF KANDAL PROVINCE. MG THAPPANA NGINN IS ALSO SENDING A TEAM TO KOMPONG SPEU TO SET UP EXAMINING BOARDS AND A RECRUITMENT CENTER THERE, WHICH HE HOPES WILL PROVIDE MANY OF THE RECRUITS FOR THE KOMPONG SPEU TRAINING CENTER. TEAMS
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WILL LATER BE DISPATCHED TO KOMPONG SOM, BATTAMBANG AND SIEM REAP FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, AND PLANS NOW ARE TO FILL THE REAM AND SISOPHON TRAINING CENTERS ENTIRELY WITH MEN FROM THE ADJOINING REGIONS. THAPPANA NGINN WILL USE CADRE AND PROCEDURES NOW EMPLOYED AT THE PHNOM PENH RECEPTION CENTER IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF FRAUDULENT EFFECTIVES. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ HAS ORDERED SUSPENSION OF RECRUITMENT IN THE MILITARY REGIONS

PENDING ARRIVAL OF THAPPANA NGINN'S TEAMS.

6. THAPPANA NGINN COMPLAINED OF LAX ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRAINING CENTERS, PARTICULARLY KAMBOL AND LOVEK, AND SAID HE HAS ASKED SOSTHENEJNANDEZ TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION. OUR LAST SURVEYS OF THESE TRAINING CENTERS WOULD NOT CORROBORATE THAPPANA NGINN'S REPORT, BUT WE PLAN NEW INVESTIGATIONS SOONEST. ENDERS

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